

**Wednesfield District Council.**

---

**Annual Report,**

---

OF

**Medical Officer of Health**


**ARTHUR HANDS, F.R.A.S.,**

**FOR THE YEAR 1904.**

---

HEATH TOWN :

PRINTED BY F. SIDEBOTHAM, WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30242423>

# Annual Report.

WEDNESFIELD ROAD,

WOLVERHAMPTON,

*January 9th, 1905.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to forward for your inspection my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the township, for the year ended December 31st, 1904.

**Population.**—It is a rather difficult matter to estimate the number of inhabitants correctly, and the tendency is to over estimate them ; but taking into consideration the number of births in excess of the deaths ; the number of new and empty houses ; and the removals from the district : I estimate the population to the middle of last June as being 5470, which is apportioned as follows :—

Wednesfield proper	..	..	3692
Wood End ..	..	..	822
March End ..	..	..	597
The Scotlands	..	..	108
New Workhouse	..	..	251

---

Total .. 5470

**Births.**—111 Boys, and 109 girls have been born during the year : giving a total of 220 births, with a birth-rate of 40·2. On account of the maternity wards of the New Workhouse being in our district, the above figures do not give the exact numbers belonging to Wednesfield exclusively, as many children are born there from all parts of the Union. In order to get a correct estimate for the future, I would suggest that the Council obtain the exact returns from the local Registrar, so that a distinction may be made.

**Deaths.**—85 deaths have occurred during the year ; of which number 34 died under 1 year of age ; 4 between the ages of 1 and 5 years ; 4 between 5 and 15 years ; 6 between 15 and 25 ; 28 between 25 and 65 ; and 19 at the age of 65 and upwards. Many persons attained considerable longevity, 8 having lived to be from 80 to 85 years of age. 55 deaths occurred in Wednesfield proper ; 14 at Wood End, 13 at March End, 2 at the Scotlands, 9 in the New Workhouse (principally young infants), and 2 in the General Hospital, Wolverhampton. One death resulted from each of the following causes :—Scarlet Fever, Diarrhœa, Tubercular disease, Diseases of Parturition, Burns, and Convulsions ; 2 from Cancer, Meningitis, and Epilepsy ; 3 from Whooping Cough, Phthisis, and Marasmus ; 4 from Enteritis and Bronchitis ; 12 from Senile Decay ; 13 from Heart Disease ; and 32 from all other causes.

**Inquests.**—Nine enquiries as to the cause of death were instituted by the Coroner, with the following result :—

Heart Disease	..	..	4
Drowned	..	..	2
Marasmus	..	..	1
Suffocated	..	..	1
Effusions on Brain	..	..	1
<hr/>			
Total	..		9

**Notifications.**—Twenty-two notifications of Infectious Diseases were received during the year, as follows : Scarlet Fever 17 ; Erysipelas 4 ; and Diphtheria 1. Twelve of the first-mentioned disease occurred at the New Workhouse, and all of the cases of



Erysipelas notified. In the Wednesfield district proper, there were notified 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 1 of Diphtheria; and in the March End district 2 of Scarlet Fever only; while at Wood End and the Scotlands there were no cases reported.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Seventeen cases were notified, all of which were treated at the homes of the patients, as now the Council has severed its connection with the Heath Town Isolation Hospital, no provision is available for the proper isolation and treatment of this complaint; and in view of a future epidemic it would be well if the Council would consider the advisability of providing such, as well as to make provision for cases of Small-pox, should any arise.

**Vaccination.**—There is much less reluctance on the part of parents than was the case before calf-lymph was employed. 350 children have been vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator during the year.

**Privies.**—A large number of privies are in a very filthy and insanitary condition, due in the first place to defective construction and proximity to dwelling-houses. Many of them are of large size and pollute the ground for some distance around. It is advisable, now that there exists a complete system of sewerage, that these privies should be done away with at the earliest possible moment, and in their place properly constructed water or waste water closets should be substituted.

Some of these have been done away with during the year.

**Sewers.**—170 houses have been connected with the sewers since my last Annual Report to the Council.

**Streets.**—Part of Graisle Lane, Charles Street, and Hickman Street have been re-made. A new road leading from Neachells Lane towards March End has been made and the sewer has been extended along it as far as Mr. Ellard's residence.

**Water Supply.**—Practically the whole of the Wood End district is now supplied with drinking water. There is a strip of roadway at March End still unsupplied with corporation water, between the Greyhound Inn and Mr. Harper's farm; and the

Scotlands is still without a proper supply. I have made a number of examinations of drinking water during the year, principally from the Wood End district, and all of the samples were more or less polluted. The Council is taking the necessary steps to remedy the evil.

**Lighting.**—New Gas Lamps have been erected from the junction of the Lichfield Road to near the Chapel at Wood End; others down March End as far as the Falcon Inn; one in the Lichfield Road; and another at the top of North Street.

**New Houses.**—68 new houses have been erected during the year: 61 in Wednesfield proper, and 7 at March End. No fresh ones at The Scotlands or Wood End.

**Workshops.**—There are a considerable number of old-fashioned workshops which do not quite come up to the requirements of the times, being insufficiently lighted and ventilated, and some of them also destitute of a proper flooring either of brick or wood. This deficiency constitutes a very real danger to those employed in the works, as any expectoration from a phthisical patient is apt to become dry, and mingles with the dust of the floor, and the germs of this disease may be inhaled by a susceptible person, and so initiate the complaint.

**Numbering of Houses.**—It would be a great boon to all concerned were the Council to arrange to have the houses in township numbered; as much inconvenience is occasioned at present.

---

The Council will find the statistics required by the Local Government Board and County Council appended hereto.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR HANDS,

Medical Officer of Health.

J. W. E. STIRK, Esq.,

Clerk to the Council.

# Causes of, and Ages at Death, during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents". whether occurring in or beyond the District.						Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to localities whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Wednesfield proper	Wood End.	March End.	The Scotlands.	New Workhouse.	The General Hospital.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1			1					1				
Whooping Cough ... ..	3	2	1					2		1			
Diarrhœa ... ..	1	1						1					
Enteritis ... ..	4	3	1					1		1		2	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	3				2	1		2	1				
Other tubercular diseases	1			1				1					
Cancer, malignant disease	2					2		2					
Bronchitis ... ..	4	2	1			1		3	1				
Pneumonia... ..	9	4	1	1		3		5	3		1		
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	1					1		1					
Heart diseases ... ..	13	1				8	4	9	1	2			1
Senile decay ... ..	12					2	10	8	1	2	1		
Marasmus ... ..	3	2			1			2		1			
Epilepsy ... ..	2				1	1			2				
Meningitis ... ..	2	1			1			2					
Convulsions ... ..	1	1							1				
Burning ... ..	1			1									1
All other causes ... ..	32	17			1	9	5	16	3	6		7	
All causes ... ..	95	34	4	4	6	28	19	55	14	13	2	9	2

## NOTIFICATIONS.

		Scarlet Fever.		Erysipelas.		Diphtheria.
Wednesfield proper	..	5	..	—	..	1
March End	..	2	..	—	..	—
Wood End	..	None.	..	None.	..	None.
The Scotlands..	..	None.	..	None.	..	None.
New Workhouse	..	12	..	4	..	—
		—		—		—
Totals	..	19		4		1

## DEATH-RATE.

For the whole district	..	..	..	..	17·5
Wednesfield proper	..	..	..	..	14·8
March End	..	..	..	..	21·7
The Scotlands..	..	..	..	..	18·5
Zymotic death-rate for the whole district..				..	1·4

Table of the death-rate for previous years:—

1879	...	19·1	1892	...	17·3
1880	...	18·6	1893	...	13·2
1881	...	19·5	1894	...	12·6
1882	...	17·0	1895	...	17·4
1883	...	15·2	1896	...	13·2
1884	...	15·4	1897	...	12·1
1885	...	20·0	1898	...	12·1
1889	...	17·8	1901	...	13·07
1891	...	17·5	1902	...	12·5
			1903	...	14·8



*SUMMARY of SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the Year 1904, in the Urban District of WEDNESFIELD.*

				Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions ...	...	...	...	...
		Structural Defects ...	...	4	4	4
		Overcrowding ...	...	4	4	4
		Unfit for Habitation...	...	2	2	2
		Lodging Houses ...	...	...	...	...
		Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	...	...	...
		Cowsheds ...	...	6	...	...
		Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...
		Slaughter-houses ...	...	12	...	...
		Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...
		Ashpits and Privies ...	...	185	3	3
		Deposits of Refuse and Manure		...	...	...
		Water Closets and Waste Water Closets		88	...	...
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps ...	...	...	...	...
		No Disconnection ...	...	...	...	...
		Other Faults ...	...	170	54	53
		Water Supply ...	...	123	123	115
		No Water Supply...	...	8	8	7
		Pigsties ...	...	18	3	3
		Animals improperly kept ...	...	...	...	...
		Offensive Trades ...	...	1	1	1
		Smoking Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...
		Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...				621	202	192

*SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE.—continued.*

						Nos.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	...		
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...		
„ „ found Adulterated	...	...	...	...		
„ Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...		28
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...		28
<b>Precaution against Infectious Disease.</b>						
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or Destroyed	...	...	...	...		
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...		7
Schools ditto ditto	...	...	...	...		
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...		
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...	...		
Prosecution for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	...	...	...	...		
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...	...		

(Signed) CYRIL DUNKLEY,

*Inspector of Nuisances.**January 11th, 1905.*

## Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

### 1.—INSPECTION.

	Inspections.		Written Notices.	
Workshops .. ..	11		—	
Homeworkers' Premises ..	8		3	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total ..	19		3	

### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.		Remedied.	
Want of Cleanliness ..	3		3	

